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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**1999**

**ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES\***

submitted by

**HUNGARY**

An annual series of reports on the industrial design information activities  
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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- The expression “industrial design” covers designs and models.
- Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in this series of documents.

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT OF THE HUNGARIAN PATENT OFFICE  
ON ITS INDUSTRIAL DESIGN ACTIVITIES  
IN 1999**

**I. EVOLUTION OF REGISTRATION ACTIVITY**

In 1999, 844 national applications were filed. The trend, witnessed during the past 5 years, of a constant increase in the number of applications has continued (see the table). The number of applications has risen by nearly 50 % compared to the previous year.

The examination capacity kept pace with the large number of new requests. As a result of an effective and systematic processing of "old cases", the average pendency time remained under 12 months.

Of the completed cases the majority (504) ended with a grant of protection, 86 applications were refused and 117 lapsed.

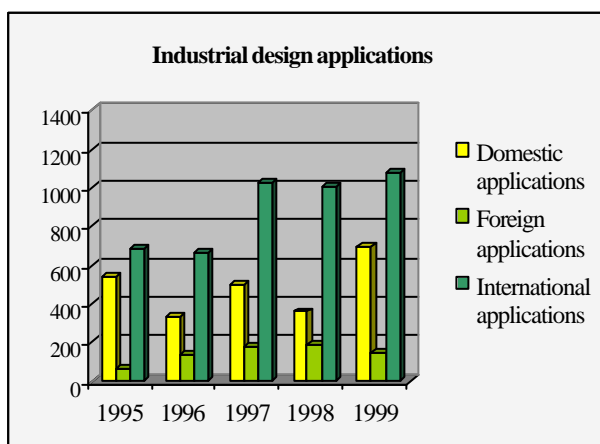
Five requests were received for the revocation of industrial design protection. There was no request for the declaration of non-infringement in 1999. Decisions were made on the merits of 5 requests for revocation and 1 request for the declaration of non-infringement.

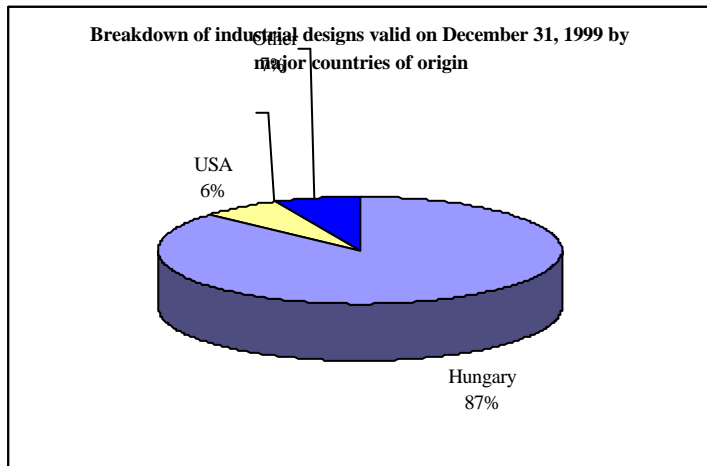
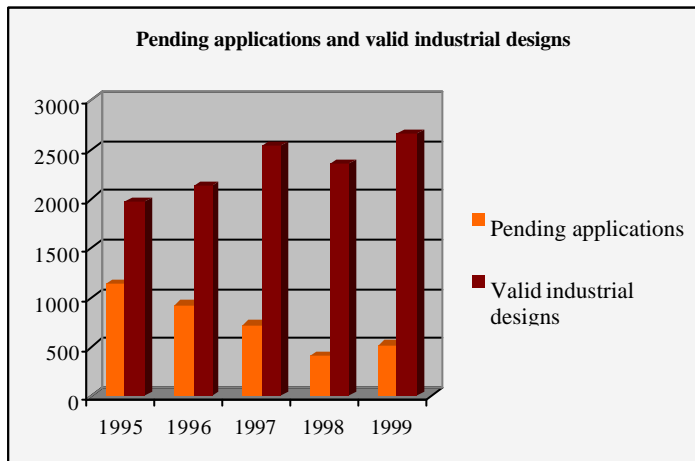
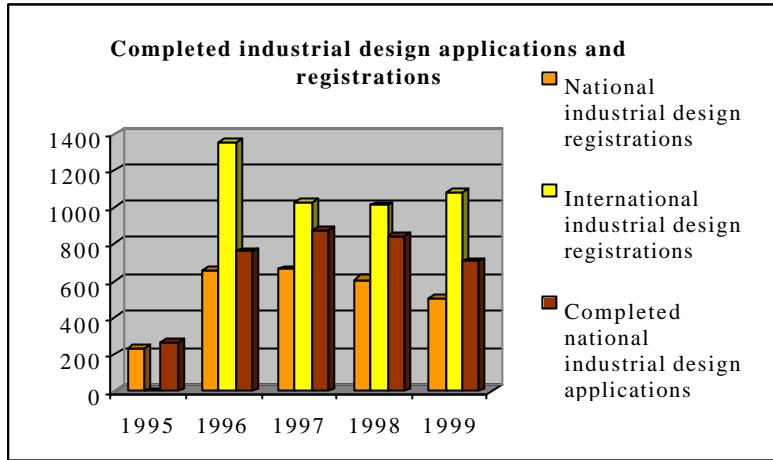
At the end of the year the number of valid industrial designs totalled 2662, of which 1795 belong to Hungarian and 867 to foreign owners.

As far as international industrial design protection is concerned, 1196 applications were received, each of them was completed during the year. The national search and substantial examination were performed in all cases within the six months available.

**Industrial design applications and industrial design protection granted in Hungary  
between 1995 and 1999**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<i>National industrial design applications</i>	599	471	676	544	844
<b>Domestic applications</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>699</b>
<b>Foreign applications</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>145</b>
National industrial design registrations	232	659	662	608	504
<b>Rejected applications</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>86</b>
Lapsed applications	2	2	33	139	117
Completed applications	265	760	875	842	707
<i>Pending applications</i>	1137	920	721	408	519
Valid industrial designs	1965	2134	2538	2356	2662
<i>International applications</i>	685	663	1028	1010	1080
<i>International industrial design registrations</i>	0	1348	1028	1009	1079





The *Vienna Classification and the Nice Classification* have been published to help the professional trademark work, and the publication of the Locarno Classification is in progress.

## **II. MATTERS CONCERNING THE GENERATION, REPRODUCTION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN DOCUMENTS AND OF SECONDARY SOURCES OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION, I. E., OFFICIAL GAZETTES**

Official publications relating to industrial design applications appear in the official journal of the Hungarian Patent Office, the monthly Gazette of Patents and Trademarks.

After receipt of the application, the bibliographic data are published in the column "Communication of data of industrial design applications", grouped according to the Locarno Classification.

The application is published in the column "Publication of industrial design applications" which contains the bibliographic data, the characteristic photo or drawing and the classification symbol.

In 1999 for the first time, *Annual Name and Subject Index 1998*, the previous unabridged 103<sup>rd</sup> volume of the Gazette of Patents and Trademarks was also published on optical disc. The publication contains:

- the complete 1998 material of the monthly Gazette
- the articles of the bimonthly Industrial Property Review, a supplement to the Gazette and
- all the patent specifications published in printed form in 1998.

With this a new search option opened, which enables the user to search every publication in all columns of the five titles of protection at the same time, among others: **industrial designs**, either by the application number, the publication number, the registration number, or by the inventor, the applicant or the owner – i.e. by all the so-called name-type-data. Information on the 1998 industrial property statistical data is also accessible through this publication.

The electronic publication can be viewed with all the customary web-browsers, while the patent specifications can be accessed and printed with the help of the widespread Acrobat Reader. The CD version was made in 1700 copies, subscribers for the Gazette received it free of charge; 1000 copies were annexed to the printed form of the bilingual 1998 Annual Report.

Simultaneously with the publication search cards are prepared which are put in the Industrial Design Search Room. The search cards contain the bibliographic data, the classification symbol and all photos or drawings of the design.

After publication the application is available to the public, any person may inspect the files.

Registration takes place in the second month following publication, it is announced in the column "Granted industrial design protection" by indicating the bibliographic data, registration number and date of the registration.

Renewal and lapse of protection are announced in separate columns. Changes in ownership, representation, name and addresses, as well as recording of exploitation

contracts in the Register are published in the column "Diverse industrial designs publications".

On registration, a registration sheet is prepared which contains the photos or drawings of the design, bibliographic and registration data and the classification symbol. All changes affecting protection are continuously entered in the registration sheet.

Computer-aided process of applications takes place within the framework of the ORACLE-based uniform administration-management system of the Hungarian Patent Office. From the data of the applications the system builds up a database searchable according to various features, supports correspondence with the clients, compiles the data to be published and supplies them for the Gazette in electronic way. Any change in the application or in the protection is entered in the database which, therefore, may serve as an electronic register.

The following data of applications filed with the International Bureau are entered in the database: title of the application, name of the applicant, international registration number, classification symbol and date of international deposit.

The Hungarian Patent Office invites the applicant to correct substantive or formal defects by a decision prepared by a local letter editing system. The program offers draft texts according to the nature of the defect, then edits a uniform letter in an interactive way. The so prepared invitations are printed and mailed through the uniform administration-management system.

### **III. MATERS CONCERNING CLASSIFYING, RECLASSIFYING AND INDEXING INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACCORDING TO THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS APPLIED**

Hungary is a contracting party to the Locarno Agreement, thus industrial design applications are classified according to the Locarno Classification, with the indication of classes and subclasses. The filing of the application is followed by a preliminary classifying which is finalized on publication and, where necessary, new symbols are given.

The uniform administration-management system permits search according to most bibliographic data.

**IP:CLASS** (Industrial Property Classification Systems), the CD-ROM product of the HPO contains the English-French version of the first-seven editions of the International Patent Classification, the Hungarian version of the 5-7<sup>th</sup> editions, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Nice Classification and the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Vienna Classification concerning trademarks, and **the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Locarno Classification concerning industrial designs** in English, French and Hungarian.

### **IV. SEARCH FILE ESTABLISHMENT AND UPKEEP**

In the Industrial Design Search Room any person may inspect and search free of charge the search cards of published national industrial design applications and of international applications received in the International Designs Bulletin. In addition to the search cards, the registration sheets of every valid industrial design protection,

arranged in ascending order of registration numbers, are also available to any person free of charge.

On request, copies are made of the registration sheets and search cards against the payment of a fee.

## V. ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTERIZED SEARCH SYSTEMS

In 1999, the HPO's electronic uniform administration-management was modernised and improved with respect to all forms of industrial property protection. The system is already apt to supply registration and legal status data, to prepare statistics and to perform administrative tasks.

In the Hungarian Patent Office all examiners and the supporting units have PCs that are connected to the server through Novell network. The terminals are Pentium based PC-s (100 MHz machines or of higher quality).

All the examiners of the Department have access to the web based industrial design database called *INDIGIO* (<http://www.hpo.hu/English/db/indigo/>). It enables the examiners to search the bibliographic data of the *valid* Hungarian national industrial designs and pending applications. All the illustrating images are also available.

## VI. ADMINISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

In the headquarters of the Hungarian Patent Office there is a room solely for industrial design searches. Search cards, registration sheets, bulletins and CD-s of international publications, periodicals and foreign gazettes relating to industrial designs can be found there. The reference staff of the search room help in finding the documents, make copies and operate the network-connected computers.

After publishing the documents the applications are available to the public, any person may inspect them at the examiner and may get copies against the payment of a fee. Prior to publication the Hungarian Patent Office handles the applications secretly, only the applicant or his/her representative may inspect the files.

A floppy disc named "**MSZH 98**" (syst. WINDOWS 3. and above) is available both for internal use and also for public purposes. It contains the full procedure carried out by the Hungarian Patent Office - by means of an ingenious flow chart and an explanatory text - in all the categories of industrial property protection i.e. patent, utility model, trademark, **industrial design**.

The Web site of the Office provides full service to the users on the following pages: <http://www.hpo.hu/English/eipari.html> and <http://www.hpo.hu/English/vedjku.html>  
The web-based database of the *valid* Hungarian national industrial designs (INDIGO) is also available for the users <http://www.hpo.hu/English/db/indigo/>.

## **VII. MATTERS CONCERNING MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION**

The Hungarian Patent Office has a number of bilateral relations for data supply, within the framework of which the Gazette of Patents and Trademarks is regularly sent to 53 countries.

## **VIII. MATTERS CONCERNING EDUCATION AND TRAINING INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

In order to provide information for applicants and inventors and for prospective clients in a better and quicker way, a "CREATIVE line" has been operated since December 1, 1997 the "*green number*" of which may be called free of charge. Simultaneously, an advertising campaign was launched in several dailies and weeklies.

Several guides and brochures helped the familiarization with the work of the Office, and the industrial property protection, for example the "*Summary*" about the national industrial property protection system in English, the *Inventors' Guide*, the *Education booklet* or the *Guide to the optical databases*.